



# WORKFORCE WIRE

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## HOT OFF THE WIRE

A trending docu-series about Blue Zones has revealed specific areas where people are living longer and healthier, some well into their 100s, with common threads such as physical activity, nutrition, stress management and community. These areas were first introduced by author Dan Buettner in his groundbreaking 2008 book *The Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer From the People Who've Lived the Longest*.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) strives to support its employees' mind, body and soul, cultivating a community where its members are valued and supported. Resources are in place to help you. Our Employment Assistant Program aids employees and their dependents with personal concerns, including mental health, finances, occupational stress and major life events like birth, accidents and death. Well Way has an array of services dedicated to your well-being, including health coaches to work with you one-on-one, free of charge, to achieve your fitness and health goals.

Please join us to carve out our own Blue Zone in M-DCPS.

## iLead

"iLead by example, inspiring others and fostering collaboration, pushing for growth and excellence through clear communication and a shared sense of purpose."

— Omar Riaz, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent  
Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis

## BODY & MIND

The colors we see often impact how we feel. We may wish to wear neutral or bolder colors to invoke seriousness or fun, like khakis and navies versus a bright, canary yellow, or work in spaces where calming, cool pastels are displayed, like powder blue or seafoam green.



October is **National Hearing Loss Prevention Month!** Protect your hearing by following the 60/60 rule: maximum 60% volume for a maximum of 60 minutes. • **National School Lunch Week** begins October 9. Click [here](#) to check out M-DCPS Department of Food and Nutrition's tips for Healthy Celebrations at School.

## ABOVE & BEYOND

Terracish Boynton is Principal at Jesse J. McCrary, Jr. Elementary. Last year, Principal Boynton brought an omelet maker to school to treat his staff. Then he brought a waffle maker, then he brought grits. Now, once a month, Principal Boynton arrives to the school site at 6:30 a.m. and sneaks into the cafeteria to make all his staff Italian dinners, Southern shrimp and grits, or babyback barbecues for their monthly Faculty Fellowships.



## Veteran Educators Get New Teachers Wild About Teaching

The District has welcomed nearly 1,000 newly hired teachers to the 2023-2024 school year. After engaging in professional learning opportunities, including the framework of effective instruction, content-specific sessions, and mentoring and induction at New Teacher Orientation, M-DCPS' newest educators are nervous and excited to **Engage & Empower** students and **Unlock their Future**.

Some of our veteran educators offer their expert know-how to put our rookies at ease and get them **Wild About Teaching!**



I hope to learn and gain more knowledge as a teacher, and to advance my career. I'm nervous about feeling overwhelmed.

—Alyssa Williamson, Science, North County K-8

Rest assured you have the knowledge necessary to develop into an amazing teacher. Your admin team and colleagues have a lot to offer. You can do this.

—Faryal Ishmael, Science, Southwood MS



I hope to learn strategies on how to address triggers for students on the spectrum.


—Jenny Datz, SPED-ASD, Edison Park K-8



Get to know your student first. Gather information from parents, providers, teachers and their IEP. Learn to recognize triggers and what works best for them.

—Diana Perez, SPED-ASD, Palm Springs MS







I hope to reach as many of my students as possible and to help them grow academically, socially and emotionally.

—Shadavia Riggins, 2nd Grade, Phillis Wheatley ES

Create a classroom where each student feels valued, understood, and supported. It's important they feel safe to make mistakes without judgement.

—Madelyn Monje, 2nd Grade, Coral Park ES




I hope I leave my students with a lasting longing for success and good habits!

—Kevin Goins, P.E., Henry E.S. Reeves K-8

If you develop a routine which works on basic skills and core values, you will set a foundation that will instill good habits and help them achieve success.

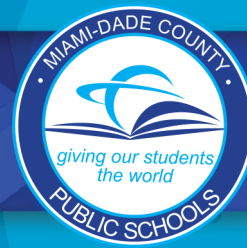
—Matias Caroni, P.E., Norma Butler Bossard ES



M-DCPS welcomes our new teachers and reminds you that resources are in place to assist you in achieving your career goals. The Mentoring and Induction for New Teachers (MINT) program is a three-year comprehensive induction program designed to assist new teachers by providing high-quality professional development opportunities that will enable teachers to enhance student learning and increase student achievement.

In addition, the MINT 2.0 Professional Pathway to Certification program is a free state-approved teacher preparation program designed to provide non-education majors the opportunity to complete a program designed to meet the professional education coursework requirements for issuance of a professional certificate.

Interested in transitioning your employment with M-DCPS into the instructional track? Click [here](#) to watch some videos on the MINT program. Thank you for choosing M-DCPS, your best choice in education!



## Call Dibs!

The application period for M-DCPS Magnet Schools is open! This year, as District employees, you can enjoy increased chances of your child being selected for a Magnet program. We've reserved 5% of all available seats at each Magnet School Program for children of District employees, with a random selection process, just like the general pool. Children of M-DCPS employees will also run through the General Magnet lottery. Acceptances from the general pool take precedence over acceptances from the Employee-Benefit pool.

M-DCPS Magnet Schools are a dynamic and exciting pathway to educational excellence. Don't miss out on this chance to unlock your child's path to college and career success. Applications are exclusively accepted online via the M-DCPS Parent Portal. Visit [miamimagnets.net](http://miamimagnets.net) to learn more.

**Magnet Applications**  
Open October 1<sup>st</sup>

#YourBestChoiceMDCPS

2023-2024  
**Teacher Ambassador**

Laura Berenguer (center) among EcoRise's 2023-2024 Teacher Ambassadors.

## Ambassador Among Us

Laura Berenguer, a SPED teacher at Robert Renick Educational Center, has been selected as a 2023-24 Teacher Ambassador by EcoRise, a nonprofit organization that develops standards aligned K-12 school-based curricula that focus on sustainability, environmental literacy, design innovation, and social entrepreneurship. As a Teacher Ambassador, Ms. Berenguer joins a network of educators from across the country to champion sustainability education, support teachers in the community, and encourage students to improve local socio-environmental issues through design thinking. **Congratulations, Ms. Berenguer, on this incredible honor!**

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